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1. Plovdiv lies on the Maritsa River in central Bulgaria. It is an old city erected around five elevations, but the near-by countryside is flat and suitable for agriculture.
2. The town did not suffer any war damage. Source noted new construction in the center of the city, near the watch tower, where a tunnel was being dug. It was reported that a new avenue was to be built there which will extend as far as the station and will have a street car line. Pavilions are under construction at the fair grounds. New additions were built in the area of the state hospital. The streets in the central area of town are paved and planned, but not in the old sections. Electricity is used for illumination.
3. The important buildings include the post office, tobacco factories, university building (former lycee of commerce), trade school, municipal and provincial administration, Workers Party clubhouse, et cetera. The Georgi Dimitrov Avenue is the principal business street; it unites Red Square and Cuna Square. The Ivan Vazov Avenue starts at the station and extends to the Army Fort; on this avenue are located tobacco factories, the Municipality, three militia outposts, Workers Party clubhouse, militia school and Army fort. On Stalin Boulevard, formerly called Czar Osvoboditel, are tobacco factories, university, and residential buildings. Targovska Avenue starts on Cuna Square and extends to the two bridges on the Maritsa; on it are located the national bank, people's bank, city council, and district court.
4. The characteristic landmarks of the city are its five elevations. The city was built on the slopes of these hills; the hilltops are unoccupied and have become parks with restaurants and beer gardens. The names of the hills are: Pinarcik, Cehennem, Sahat, Knaz Simiyon, Nobet tepa. The international fair is situated on the left side of the Maritsa, at a place called Karsiyaka. Five buildings were erected there last year and more are yet to be built.
5. According to the 1947 census Plovdiv had a population of 140,000. The city suffers from a critical housing shortage. The Turks form the largest minority group; formerly the Jews held first place, but many have departed. The next largest group are the Armenians which source estimates at 8,000. There are a few Greeks also. The foreigners are today made up of

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Russian civilians who remained behind after the withdrawal of Russian troops in 1947. Most of these are believed to be engineers and technicians who brought their families with them.

6. The passenger railroad station is in the southern part of the city; a smaller station, called Filipovo is in the northern section. The freight station is one kilometer from the passenger station. There are nine tracks in front of the passenger station which is on the Europe-Istanbul line. A train passes here in both directions each day between European cities and Istanbul. In addition, there are five local railroad lines leading from Plovdiv to the towns of Karlovo, Asenovgrad, Peshtera, Panagyurishte, and Hisar.
7. An airfield is located approximately one kilometer south of the city. A plane stops here in each direction each day on its flight between Sofia-Plovdiv-Burgas.
8. The Maritsa River divides the city into two sections but it cannot be used as a waterway because the river dries up during the summer. Inter-city buses of German manufacture run between Plovdiv-Asenovgrad and Plovdiv-Krichim.
9. The city used to be a provincial capital; at present, on the basis of the administrative subdivision, it is a district center.
10. By occupation, people are tobacco workers, factory laborers, small traders, government officials, and many living in the outlying districts are agricultural workers. There are no plants that employ more than 500 workers. A canning factory is located near the Filipovo railroad station in the northern sector of the city. Since only fruits and vegetables are canned, the work here is seasonal. Three shifts of 300 to 400 workers are employed during the season.
11. The local organs of the Communist Party are located in the building of the former German lyceum, on Ivan Vazov Avenue. It is an angular, four-storied, yellow painted building. The only local newspaper, Otechesven Glas (Voice of the Fatherland) is published by a Communist committee which has its printing quarters in a building behind the Communist Party Club.
12. The major hotels, all centrally located, are the Mollé, Bulgaria, Astoria, Koop, Koromisyal, Paris, Trakya, Tsar Asparuh and Burgas. The majority have four stories. There are four hospitals, including a state hospital, Catholic hospital, workers dispensary and a cooperative hospital run by several doctors. There is a medical school in addition to several lyceums for boys and girls, and a trade school. Only those belonging to the young peoples union are accepted in school.
13. The theater and four movie houses are located on Georgi Dimitrov Avenue; in the summer films are also shown in open air gardens. The two football fields, called Levski and Hristo Botev, are found in the southern sector of the city; both are enclosed within walls.
14. The garrison stationed at Plovdiv is composed of 9 Infantry Division, 3 Artillery Regiment, a mechanized regiment, tank brigade, engineer regiment, and Air Force squadrons. No details are known. At present the classes of 1927 and 1928 are under arms. No war preparations were observed.

25X1A [REDACTED] This report is based upon a preliminary interrogation of a Bulgarian escapee who entered [REDACTED]

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